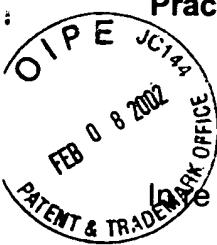


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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: Harald BAUER, et al.

Application No.: 10/021,596

Group No.:

Filed: December 12, 2001

For: LAUNDRY DETERGENTS AND CLEANERS COMPRISING
MICRODISPERSE SILICATE-CONTAINING PARTICLES

Assistant Commissioner for Patent
Washington, DC 20231

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Dear Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure provisions of 37 CFR §1.56, there is hereby provided certain information which the Examiner may consider material to the examination of the subject U.S. patent application. It is requested that the Examiner make this information of record if it is deemed material to the examination of the subject application. No admission is made that the information cited in this Statement is, or is considered to be, material to patentability nor a representation that a search has been made (other than search report(s) from a counterpart foreign application or a PCT International Search Report, if submitted herewith).

1. Enclosures accompanying this Information Disclosure Statement are:
 - 1a. Form PTO-1449.
 - 1b. Copies of Information Disclosure Statement citations.
 - 1c. EPO Search Report
2. This Information Disclosure Statement is filed under 37 CFR §1.97(b) with the filing of the U.S. patent application. Accordingly, no fee or §1.97(e) Statement is required.
3. This Information Disclosure Statement is filed under 37 CFR §1.97(b) before the latter of three months after the U.S. patent application filing date or the first Office Action on the merits. Accordingly, no fee or §1.97(e) Statement is required.
4. This Information Disclosure Statement is filed under 37 CFR §1.97(c) after the first Office Action on the merits, but before a Final Office Action or a Notice of Allowance. The \$180.00 fee set forth in 37 CFR §1.17(p) in accordance with 37 CFR §1.97(c) is to be charged to Deposit Account No. 03-2060.

5. This Information Disclosure Statement is filed under 37 CFR §1.97(e) in that each item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of the information disclosure statement. Accordingly, no fee is required.
6. This Information Disclosure Statement is filed in conjunction with a Request For Continued Examination. Accordingly, no fee or §1.97(e) Statement is required.

Respectfully submitted,



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